

Remarks

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,214,709 to Orr and U.S. Patent No. 5,136,755 to Shaw.

A. Orr Does Not Anticipate Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended herein to clarify that the unbent strands of wire remain generally straight. Orr does not disclose a set of unbent wires that remain generally straight. Instead, all of the strands of Orr, including strand a², are bent within the wire rope socket. The bending of strand a² is plainly shown in Figure 1 of Orr. In contrast, the unbent strands of the present invention remain generally straight within the socket, as indicated in Figure 3. Because the invention involves a combination of bent and unbent strands, the strength of the wire rope and socket combination can be determined. In Orr, in contrast, all of the strands are bent within the socket and the disclosure of a combination of bent and unbent strands is not present.

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir 1987). “The identical invention must be shown in complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1336 (Fed. Cir 1989). Here, Orr does not disclose one or more strands of wire that remain generally straight within the wire rope socket. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 1 over Orr should be withdrawn, and claim 1 should be passed to issuance.

B. Shaw Does Not Anticipate Claim 1

Shaw does not disclose “one or more strands of twisted wires being bent over 180 degrees within the wire rope socket.” According to the examiner, the twisted wires of Shaw are the unfrayed ends of inner sheath 11. It is apparent, however, from the discussion in Shaw at

column 6, line 58 through column 7, line 21, that the frayed ends of Shaw are not bent over 180 degrees within the wire rope socket. Instead, the frayed ends of Shaw are bound together in a mass on the exterior of top plug 15, and thereafter melted together to form a melted mass 32. As such, it cannot be said the unfrayed ends of Shaw are "bent over 180 degrees within the wire rope socket. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 1 over Shaw should be withdrawn, and claim 1 should be passed to issuance.

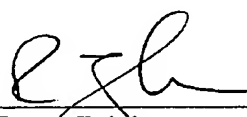
C. Dependent Claim 2

Shaw Dependent claim 2 will not be discussed individually herein because it depends from an allowable base claim.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1 and 2 of the present invention are allowable. Applicant respectfully requests that these claims be passed to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



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